

● Cover Story

Japanese immigrants in New Caledonia and the Gifu French Japanese Association



The "Powhatan", loaded with Japanese immigrants arriving at Thio in 1905. From the photography collection of Raymond Magnier.



Center: Marie-Jose Michel from the Honorary Japanese Consulate. Far right: Chairperson Izuka.



Descendants of Kiichiro Nawa.

New Caledonia is an island lying to the east of Australia, a French colony known for its nickel and resorts. It is estimated that more than 8,000 people of Japanese descent are currently living on the island. Starting from 1892, about 6,000 of their descendants went to earn money as migrant workers in the nickel mines, using immigration companies to organise their passage over. Most of them were single males, many of whom stayed on the island and made households with the local women after their 5 year contract ended.

However, in 1941 the Second World War suddenly broke out. Japanese people were arrested as hostile aliens and sent to internment camps in Australia where they were detained, and in 1946 underwent forced repatriation. Their land was confiscated by the French government. Non-Japanese wives and mixed blood children, who were not identified as hostile aliens, were forced into a very harsh existence of poverty, discrimination and desolation without the main supporter of their families. Many families were never reunited.

Until a recent survey by Associate Professor Mutsumi Tsuda from the Seian University of Art and Design, the history of those Japanese people who immigrated to New Caledonia was not that widely known. For more details, please refer to Ms. Tsuda's website : <http://www.mutsumitsuda.com/>

This year a celebration was held to mark the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to New

Caledonia. Members of the Gifu French Japanese Association, which has had an active relationship with New Caledonia since 2009, were invited to attend, and 14 association members (represented by chairperson Yasue Izuka) participated in the celebrations.

At the anniversary celebration association members conducted cultural exchange in the form of an introduction of Gifu Prefecture, and lessons in the Gujo Dance, how to wear a yukata, and how to fold origami. Messages from the Governor of Gifu Prefecture and the Mayor of Gifu City were presented to the hosts, and association members participated in a memorial service for 300 Japanese people buried at the Thio City cemetery. Members interacted with local people, including people of Japanese descent. Of particular note there was a dramatic meeting with the descendants of the late Kiichiro Nawa on the anniversary of the day that he returned to Japan from New Caledonia in 1900.

Members of the association received a heartfelt letter of thanks for fulfilling their roles as grass roots ambassadors representing Gifu from the host of the celebrations Marie-Jose Michel, from the honorary Japanese Consulate.

The association is seeking to deepen its relationship with New Caledonia and is looking to create new chances for people to learn about Japanese immigrants.

There are presently only 3 general hospitals situated in Gifu Prefecture- the Ogaki Municipal Hospital in Ogaki City, the Kizawa Memorial Hospital in Minokamo City, and the Gifu Social Insurance Hospital in Kani City. As far as Gifu Prefectural Government understands, there is a Portuguese interpreter (and at some hospitals an English interpreter) employed at these hospitals, and a concentration of foreign patients.

Other cities with a concentration of foreign residents but without general hospitals request medical interpreter dispatch from inner city institutions, but these requests are not able to be met. According to those institutions, there is a need for a system that caters to a wider area.

Gifu International Center (GIC) runs medical interpreting support workshops and trains medical interpreters. Workshop participants voiced that they would like to see a volunteer medical interpreter dispatch system put into place.

In 2011, after further consideration by the Gifu Prefecture Medical Interpreter Dispatch System Review Panel (a panel made up of prefectural medical bodies, institutions, and not for profit organisations), the trial system started this year.

The trial system from this financial year will become the basis for research on how best to carry out the system in 2013.

1. Volunteer medical interpreter dispatch trial time period:

30th July 2012 (Mon) to 31st March 2013 (Sun)

2. Medical institutions chosen to accept dispatch medical interpreters (as of 30th September 2012):

The following institutions were chosen by the review panel:

- Gifu University Hospital (Gifu City)
- Gifu Prefectural General Medical Center (Gifu City)
- Gifu Municipal Hospital (Gifu City)
- Ogaki Municipal Hospital (Ogaki City)
- Chuno Kosei Hospital (Sekai City)
- Kizawa Memorial Hospital (Minokamo City)

3. Dispatch volunteer medical interpreters:

Dispatch volunteer medical interpreters have all been registered this year upon passing an exam set by GIC. There are 15 volunteers registered altogether, with 7 for Portuguese, 6 for Chinese, and 2 for Tagalog.

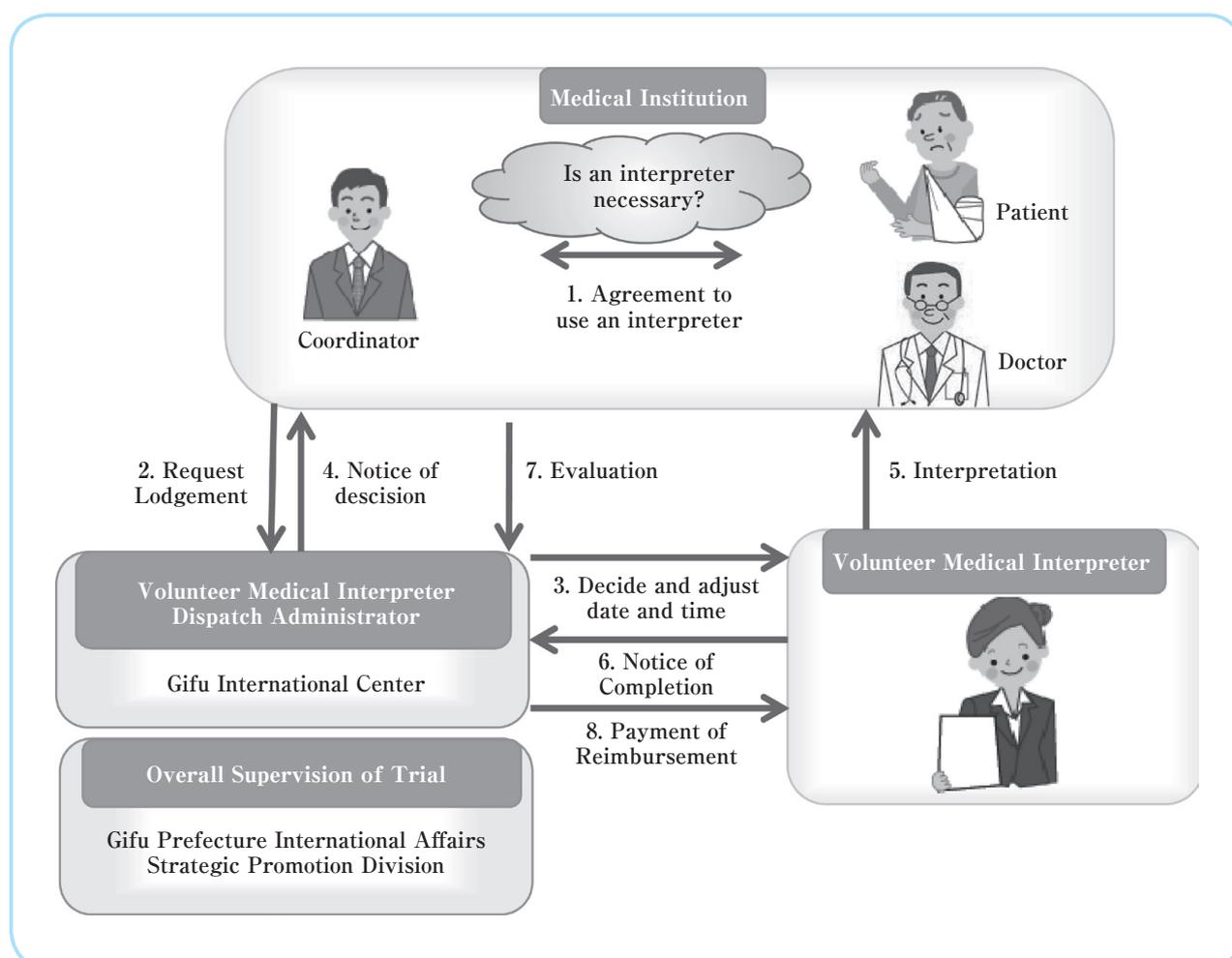
4. How volunteers are dispatched

- 1 The medical institution, as a rule, must request a volunteer from the GIC (which is in charge of administrating the dispatch system) by 5 days before the desired dispatch date.
- 2 The GIC chooses a person who fits the request from the list of registered volunteer medical interpreters.
- 3 Medical interpreting will occur on the requested day and time at the medical institution that requested the dispatch. Interpretation is available for about 2 hours per session.

Interpreter Dispatch System Trial

5. Reimbursement for medical interpreting

During this financial year, the GIC will pay volunteers 3000 yen per visit, which must also cover transportation expenses. The patient or the medical institution is not responsible for any payment.



● Medical Interpreter Training —Medical Interpreter Human Resource Development—

Private corporations have been commissioned to run interpreter training programmes concurrent with the volunteer medical interpreter dispatch system trial. These programmes are aimed at unemployed people who have an interest in working as medical interpreters within the prefecture, and provide on and off the job training in the necessary knowledge and skills to be a professional medical interpreter. Portuguese, Chinese and Tagalog speakers will undergo training, the on the job training component of which is planned to be held at a medical institution in Gifu Prefecture.

This training, along with the trial basis medical volunteer system, aims to give foreign residents peace of mind when accessing medical treatment, as well as ensuring that there is a system in place where medical institutions can provide medical care in an efficient manner.

Gifu Prefecture and The Association of People from Gifu Prefecture in Brazil

At present there are 13,000 Brazilian people living in Gifu Prefecture, and they make an important contribution to a lively regional society. Many years ago the reverse trend was in place, and starting in the year 1908, more than 100,000 Japanese people immigrated to Brazil. In 1913, 44 people from 11 families became the first emigrants from Gifu Prefecture. People continued to emigrate from Gifu Prefecture, and in June 1938, 15 or 16 people got together for a social gathering that started off the Association of People from Gifu Prefecture in Brazil.

While overcoming many hardships, as the Association has grown, emigrants from Gifu Prefecture have played an important role in developing Brazilian society and acting as a bridge between the two countries.

Since 1960, thanks to the generous support and the social network provided by the Association, the relationship between Gifu Prefecture and Brazil has been very active over a wide range of fields. There are reciprocal visits between the two countries, sister relationships between cities and towns, anniversary celebrations, the establishment of a prefectural scholarship system for descendants of emigrants, a trainee dispatched from the Gifu Prefectural police force to learn Portuguese, and an exchange student from Gifu Agricultural High School sent to Brazil.

The prefectural scholarship mentioned above has been in place since 1969, and over this period 63 Brazilian people descended from emigrants from Gifu have been sent to study at Gifu University. These exchange students continue to work to strengthen their connection to Gifu after they go home.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the immigration of Gifu Prefectural residents to Brazil, and will mark the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of People from Gifu Prefecture in Brazil.



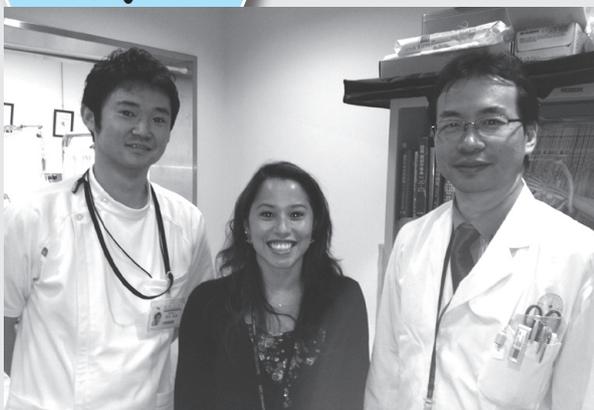
The 34th Overseas dispatch group from Gifu Agricultural High School

The Association of People from Gifu Prefecture in Brazil

Foundation: June 1938 Members: 351 families ; 1,578 individuals (as of 2011)

<http://www.gifukenjinkai.com.br/>

Exchange Student Project



Luma (center) and her teachers from Gifu University

Luma Kiyoko Caldeira Ono (24 years old, born in Rio Grande do Sul, the most southern state in Brazil) is the 2012 Gifu Prefecture exchange student.

She is a physiotherapist, and is conducting research at Gifu University. At the same time as writing her graduation thesis, she is working with pre and post operation patients of various ages, and also with discharged patients who are in need of rehabilitation.

She has a strong connection to Gifu because of relatives living in Kani City and Seki City. After she graduated university, on the advice from her father Hugo Ono and her grandfather Mitsuo Ono that it would be good to study in Japan, a country with cutting edge technology, she applied for a prefectural scholarship through the Association.

She says that in Gifu Prefecture the Nagara river, cormorant fishing, and the Gujo all-night dancing are famous, and that she has been able to learn the distinctive way that the local people speak. She feels accepted by the community. She says that after she

returns back to Brazil, she would like to put the skills that she has learnt in Japan to use as a physiotherapist, and to share what she has learnt with her colleagues.

Information for Foreign Residents

Free consultation sessions with administrative procedure specialists for foreign residents has started!

Changes in status of residence, acquiring Japanese nationality, employing foreign residents, starting a business in Japan... Have you ever found yourself wondering what to do in these kinds of situations? Administrative procedure specialists with national qualifications based on national law are available for consultation on a wide range of subjects concerning foreign residents. Privacy will be strictly protected. Please do not hesitate to use this service.

We may be able to arrange consultation sessions during times outside those written below- please give the GIC a call and we will see what we can do.

Days and Times	From 1 pm to 3 pm on the third Sunday and fourth Wednesday of every month. *Please be aware that bookings are necessary, and if there are no bookings for that day then the consultation session will not be held. *Please book about a week early in order to give time for the specialists to prepare an appropriate answer.
Consultation length	In principle, 30 minutes per person.
Discussion topics	Status of residence, visas, nationality, international marriage or divorce, commercial licenses, traffic accidents, etc.
Languages	English, Portuguese, Chinese, Tagalog.
Cost	Free
Points for consideration	If you would like to use an interpreter please also specify the time you would like to have your consultation. We cannot guarantee that an interpreter will be available during your desired consultation day or time.
Other	Consultation is also available for Japanese people who wish to discuss things relating to foreign residents, like marriage or employment.
Venue	Gifu International Center

Other organisations are also running similar consultation services. For further details, please contact these organisations directly.

Organisation Name	Telephone	Days and Times	Languages
Ogaki International Exchange Association	0584-82-2311	The first Sunday of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm *Prior booking necessary	Portuguese, Chinese, English. *Prior booking necessary
Kani International Exchange Association	0574-60-1200	Two times a month during October, December, January, and March *Prior booking necessary	Portuguese, English, Visaya *Prior booking necessary

Are you experiencing anxiety?

“I don’t really get along with people at my work, my family, or other people around me”; “I have no motivation”; “I feel depressed”; “I feel anxious and I can’t sleep”. Are you or any members of your family suffering from problems like these?

The GIC offers a free counseling service called “Kokoro no Soudan”. The counselor specialises in problems that Brazilian people experience in Japan, and counseling is conducted in Portuguese. The schedule from October this year is as follows:

October 5th (Friday) and 28th (Sunday)
November 2nd (Friday) and 25th (Sunday)
December 7th (Friday) and 23rd (Sunday)

There is also counseling available in English, Chinese and Tagalog through the GIC in conjunction with Gifu Mental Health Welfare Center with a qualified counselor. Please make initial enquiries directly to the GIC.

The above services require prior booking. Privacy will be strictly protected.
Please do not hesitate to contact the GIC.

Coordinator for International Relations Dispatch

GIC employs three Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) through the JET Programme. At present there is one CIR each from Brazil, Australia and China.

CIRs are sent out to local authorities, international associations or schools, where they conduct activities to support international exchange and international understanding.

Main duties:

- Teaching students about international understanding in elementary, junior high and high school in Gifu Prefecture.
- Making presentations about international understanding for events hosted by local authorities or international associations.
- CIRs can provide explanations about their home countries using power point, songs, games or cooking. We will try and cater to your needs as much as possible.

※Groups requesting CIR dispatch are responsible for paying transportation fees only.



From left : Sally Wals (Australia)

I want to teach people in Gifu about Australia, a country where many different people from all over the world are living together. I also want to help people of different national backgrounds living in Gifu to have a good life here. I'd like to see a truly international community here in Gifu!

Gong Chong (China)

I am from Jiangxi Province in China. I would like to tell as many people as possible about the friendly relations and exchange that have been happening in many different fields up until now between Jiangxi and Gifu. I would like to improve understanding of different cultures, and especially China and Chinese culture.

Missao Anderson Morishita (Brazil)

Brazil is attracting a lot of attention at the moment because of the upcoming Olympics and the World Cup.

I was born and raised over 20,000 kilometers away from Japan, but at the moment I'm living right here, so if anybody has an interest in learning more about Brazil, please let me know.

“Australia- Motto Shiro yo!”

(Minokamo International Exchange Association)

An introduction to Australian lifestyle, history and culture. Sally also told us about her own experience as an exchange student.

The students in the crowd listened very intensely, and also showed an interest in the exchange programme between sister cities Minokamo and Dubbo. For the adults in the audience, this was a chance to learn anew about cultural differences, and to reflect back on their own culture.



Lifelong Learning Course- “Cuisine of the World”

(Hichiso Board of Education)

We made 4 different dishes, including Chinese Tomato and Egg Soup. There was an introduction to the flavours used in different regions of China, including Shanghai, Guangdong, Beijing, and Sichuan. We discovered that if we use tomato in stir fry and soups in ways that we are not used to, then we can make it taste like Chinese food. When we finished cooking, we were able to have a nice chat while sampling the food we made.

English Circle

The GIC runs an English Circle.

Anybody who knows conversational level English is welcome to come along!

- **Days** : As a rule, runs every Thursday.
- **Times** : From 2 pm to 3:30 pm.
- **Price** : Free.

※If you would like us to reserve a space for you, you can call on Thursday morning from 9 am.



ASFIL Gifu

● Outline

ASFIL is made up of the words "Assist Filipinos" and as these words suggest, it is a group that aims to support Filipino people residing in Japan to be independent, and to be able to contribute to Japanese society as members of a multicultural society.

- Founded in 2008
- 7 committee members
- Represented by Ono Erina
- Office : 7-6-14 Kano, Gifu City
- Telephone: 090-3935-6004
(Ms. Ono)



▲Members of ASFIL Gifu

● Activities

ASFIL supports Filipino people living in and around Gifu City by providing information, interpreting, and telephone consultation.

● Telephone consultation

Divorce, marriage, status of residence- ask us anything relating to the services offered at the Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consulate General.

life. If we all work together, we can make this a reality. ASFIL is working to support Filipino people living in Japan to live stable lives so that they can contribute and cooperate as full members of society.

● Services offered through the Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consulate General

Passport application and renewal and general consultation sessions are offered once a month in Gifu City in cooperation with the Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consulate General. Every year about 300 Filipino people living in Gifu and Aichi Prefecture use this service.

● Interpreting

We provide free interpreting services for people in financial difficulty.

Services offered at the Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consular General will also be available in Gifu City as of the 27th of October, and we would definitely like to encourage the Filipino community to take advantage of this.

● A message from ASFIL Gifu:

Whether you are Japanese or not, everyone living in Japan is part of the same society, and we all share the same goal of wanting a good

(For further details, please turn to page 8.)

JICA corner

Hi everyone, this is Mari from the JICA desk. Our mountainous prefecture is covered with coloured trees, and it's starting to feel like autumn. So, let's talk about the JICA annual report and the autumn volunteer drive!!

International Understanding Course

Learn in real life, to use in real life

A course in international understanding was held at the Gifu General Education Center on the 23rd of August (Thurs). In the morning, a former JICA volunteer who was sent to Morocco as a teacher and a volunteer sent to Brazil to study education gave lectures. In the afternoon a lecturer from NIED held a workshop about how to incorporate world events and international understanding into your daily life. I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who took part, and I hope that many people also have the chance to participate next year!!



Work that will change yourself and the world Why not try your hand at being a JICA volunteer?

Application period: Oct 1st to Nov 5th, 2012.
Applicants: People 20 to 39 years old as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers; People 40 to 69 years old as Senior Volunteers.
There will be explanation sessions held in conjunction with the recruitment drive. Please don't hesitate to join in if you would like to hear about what kind of activities former volunteers were involved in, or would like to take part in individual consultations about application.
October 17th (Weds) from 6:30 pm.
Place: Fureai Fukuju Kaikan
Further details on the home page at www.jica.go.jp
Free. No booking necessary.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me regarding volunteering overseas or lectures on international understanding.
Mari Kagami, Gifu Coordinator for International Cooperation, Gifu Prefecture JICA Desk
Gifu International Center, Gifu Chunichi Bldg 2F, 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City
Tel : 058-263-8069(direct) E-mail: jicadpd-desk-gifuken@jica.go.jp

Message Board

Information about associations involved in international events and courses in Gifu Prefecture. If you would like to post any information here, please contact the GIC.

Gifu International Center Events

Culture Salon- "Oman- the Unknown Country"

An introduction to Oman by an Ogaki born fashion designer who coordinated a fashion show there in cooperation with the secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

When: November 11th (Sun), 2 to 3:30 pm

Where: Softopia Japan Center, Ogaki City

Capacity: 30 people in order application

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Gifu International Center

Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consulate General Services

Provides services like passport application and passport renewal. There are also plans for video showings on earthquake safety measures.

When: October 27th (Sat), 9 am to 5 pm

Where: Nagaragawa Convention Center (Gifu City)

Who: Resident Filipinos

Cost: Free

Enquiries: ASFIL Gifu

Tel- 090-3935-6004 (Ms. Ono)

(Philippine Consulate General Osaka)

<http://www.osakapcg.com/>

12th Gifu Prefecture Exchange Student Japanese Speech Contest

Foreign exchange students in Gifu Prefecture will give speeches in Japanese about Japanese society.

When: October 27th (Sat) 1 to 6 pm

Where: Gifu Keizai University (Ogaki City)

Who: Anybody is welcome to watch

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Gifu Regional International Student Promotion Association

Tel- 058-293-3350

The Going Home Project

An information session about support services available in Sao Paulo for children who have returned to Brazil after spending time in Japan. There will be a talk about the current situation in Brazil and initiatives in place, as well as individual discussions. There will also be a chance to get to know the other participants over a light meal.

When: November 1st (Thurs)

5 to 7 pm Individual discussion with a psychologist
7 to 9 pm Support services available for children

Where: Kani Multicultural Center "Frevia"

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Kani International Exchange Association

Tel- 0574-60-1230

(Portuguese, English, Tagalog OK)

<http://www.ck.ne.jp/~frevia/index.html>

This debriefing session will be held entirely in Portuguese.

Frevia's All-Brazil Day

The whole Frevia center will be dedicated to Brazil.

There will be photo displays of Japanese people of Brazilian heritage, dance, music, arts and crafts, and stalls with Brazilian food for sale.

When: November 3rd (Sat) 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Kani Multicultural Center "Frevia"

Enquiries: As above

Cost: Entry into the Frevia Center is free.

Some of the stalls will have items for sale.

Brazilian Dance Course

Learn how to do a dance that is performed in the "Festa Junina" (June Festival) called the Quadrilha.

When: November 2nd to 30th, every Friday (5 times total), 7 to 9 pm.

*November 23rd is a public holiday, so practice will be held on the 22nd (Thurs)

Where: Seki City Hall

Capacity: 30 people in order of application.

Who: Anybody is welcome, Japanese or not.

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Seki International Relations Association

Tel- 0575-23-6806

<http://www.city.seki.gifu.jp/cosmopia/>

Experience Gilding, Zazen, and Tea Ceremony

Experience Gifu culture from a Buddhist perspective. Learn how to pray at a shrine, and enjoy Japanese culture through Zen meditation and tea ceremony. You can also see how gilding (gold plating) is put on Buddhist altars.

When: November 4th (Sun) 1 to 4 pm

Where: Fujii Buddhist Altar Shop (89 Suehiro-cho, Gifu City)

Capacity: 20 people in order of application

Cost: 2,000 yen (including tea, sweets, and a gift.)
Conducted mainly in English

Enquiries: Nagaragawa Onpaku Website

<http://nagaragawa.onpaku.asia/>

Tel: 090-6615-5018 (Matsueda)

Make Japanese Sweets

Why don't you try and make three different kinds of Japanese sweets? How about a tea ceremony? Learn about traditional Japanese sweets and the history and culture behind them.

When: November 16th (Fri) 2 to 3:30 pm

Where: Okinaya Souhonpo (38 Mitono-cho, Gifu City)

Capacity: 8 people in order of application

Cost: 2,000 yen

Conducted mainly in English

Enquiries: Nagaragawa Onpaku Website

<http://nagaragawa.onpaku.asia/>

Tel : 058-262-0988 (Okinaya Souhonpo)

French Cooking Class

Make cheese fondue and a red wine dish.

When: November 17th (Sat) 10 am to 1:30 pm

Where: Ichihashi Community Center (Gifu City)

Capacity: 25 people in order of application

Cost: about 3,000 yen

Instructor: French CIR Thibaut Meurisse

Enquiries: Gifu Japan France Association

Tel- 058-235-7253

Schedule and price subject to change.

Free legal consultation

When: November 24th (Sat) 10 am to 3 pm

Where: Kani Multicultural Center "Frevia"

Cost: Free

Application: Prior booking necessary. Interpreter available (not all languages).

Enquiries: Kani International Exchange Association

Tel- 0574-60-1230

(Portuguese, English, Tagalog OK)

<http://www.ck.ne.jp/~frevia/index.html>

Course: Celebrating Japanese New Year

Start the new year in a relaxed frame of mind, and celebrate the new year with a full heart.

When: January 5th (Sat) 10:30 am to 12 noon

Where: Tokai Gakuin University, School of University Junior College (Kakamigahara City)

Capacity: No limit (booking not necessary but preferred)

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Tokai Gakuin University, School of Junior

College Division, Lifetime Learning Center

Tel- 058-382-1148 (reception)

<http://college.tokai-gakuin-u.ac.jp/>

Course: Celebrate Setsubun

Experience making a devil mask and throwing beans. Drive away evil spirits and pray for good health in the coming year.

When: January 26th (Sat) 10 am to 12 noon

Where: Tokai Gakuin University, School of Junior College Division (Kakamigahara City)

Capacity: No limit (booking not necessary but preferred)

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Tokai Gakuin University, School of Junior College Division, Lifetime Learning Center.

Contact details as above.

The Former Soviet Union- History and Circumstances

Former consul general of Saint Petersburg and university professor Tamaki Koichi presents a series of lectures on the history of former Soviet Union countries.

When: Second and fourth Sunday of the month (subject to change) 1:30 to 3 pm

Cost: 1,000 yen per month

Where: Gifu International Center

Inquiries: Gifu Russian Culture Salon

Tel- 090-1789-3226

<http://happy.ap.teacup.com/applet/gifurussiansalon/msgcate2/archive>

Intermediate Russian Lessons

An intermediate Russian class taught by a native Russian speaker. Some experience required.

When: Second and fourth Sunday of every month (subject to change) 3:30 to 5 pm

Where: Gifu International Center

Cost: 1,000 yen per lesson

Inquiries: Gifu Russian Culture Salon

*Contact details as above.

*Observation of either class welcome.

Issued by: Gifu International Center (GIC)

Gifu Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875

Tel: 058-214-7700 FAX: 058-263-8067

Three-way Call Civic Interpreter Service (Trio-phone) 058-263-8066

E-mail gic@gic.or.jp URL <http://www.gic.or.jp>

Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30- 18:00 Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period.

